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ABSTRACT

These two illustrated elementary readers contain the Spanish and English versions of the Puerto Rican folk tales, "Ladrillo" and "Cuentos de Juan Bobo." They are part of a series of reading materials for elementary-level migrant children. These materials are intended to help the child relate to his culture, develop interest in knowing about it and take pride in his identity as a Puerto Rican. (CLK)

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LADRILLO and Tales of JUAN BOBO

PUERTO RICAN FOLK TALES

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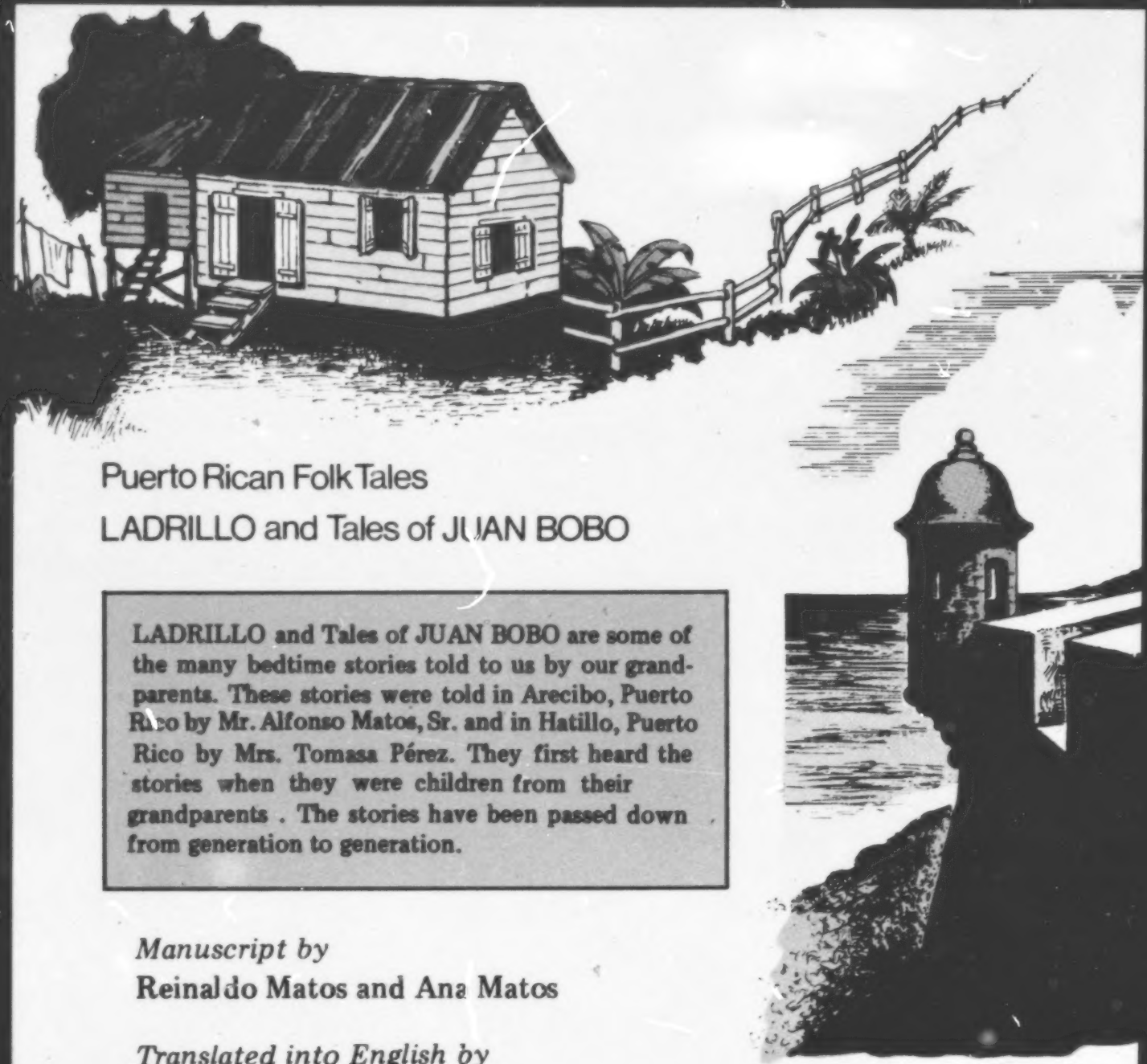

Puerto Rican Folk Tales

LADRILLO and Tales of JUAN BOBO

LADRILLO and Tales of JUAN BOBO are some of the many bedtime stories told to us by our grandparents. These stories were told in Arecibo, Puerto Rico by Mr. Alfonso Matos, Sr. and in Hatillo, Puerto Rico by Mrs. Tomasa Pérez. They first heard the stories when they were children from their grandparents . The stories have been passed down from generation to generation.

Manuscript by
Reinaldo Matos and Ana Matos

Translated into English by
Ramón F. Padró

From Stories Told by
Alfonso Matos, Sr. and Tomasa Pérez

Illustrations by **Joe Cauchi**

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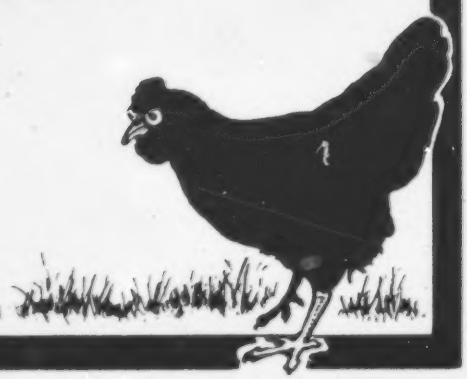
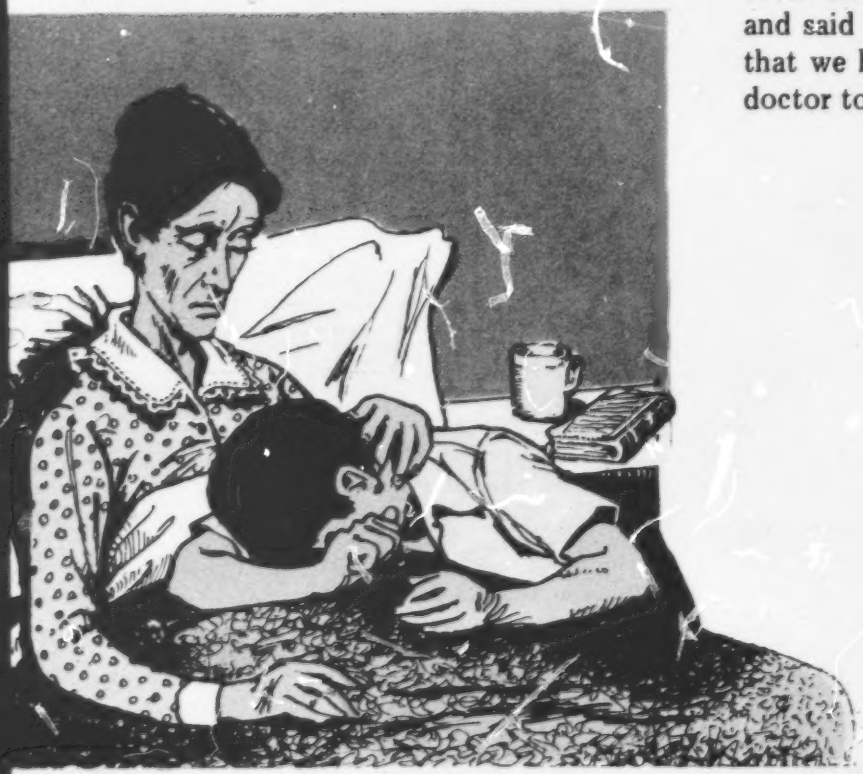
LADRILLO AND THE HEN



Once upon a time, there was a boy who lived near the Old San Juan. His mother was very sick. The boy loved her very much and would do anything for her. He wanted to get a doctor for his mother but since they were so poor they could not pay the cost. One day the mother called her son and said to him, "Son, take the only hen that we have left and sell it. Then tell the doctor to come and see me."



Right away the boy went after the hen. As he held the hen in his arms, he was thinking of how much he loved his hen.

The hen was like a part of the family. But since he loved his mother, he was willing to sell the hen.

On his way to the market-place, the boy met a bad man, a thief, named "Ladrillo".

Ladrillo planned to steal the hen. Ladrillo asked the boy, "Son, where are you going? " The boy answered, "I am going to sell this hen. I need to get money to get a doctor for my mother who is very sick."

Ladrillo said to him, "Follow me. I know a place where you can sell the hen for a lot of money and where you can find a good doctor." Because the boy wanted to get a lot of money for his hen, he followed the man.

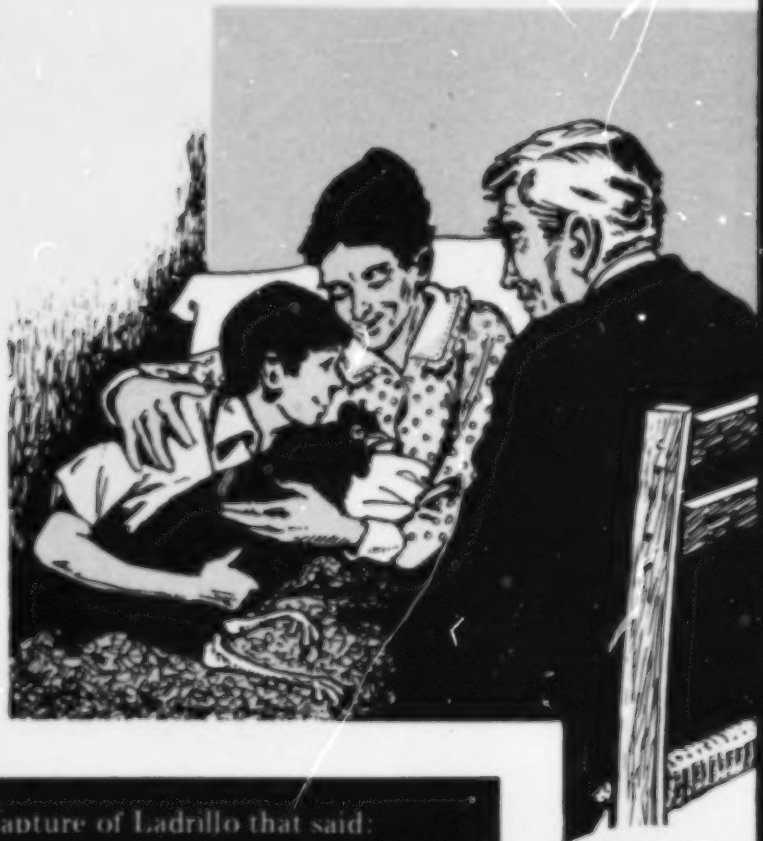
Ladrillo took him to a place known as Fort El Morro. In the fort there were dark caves and deep wells. Ladrillo took the boy near one of the caves. He knew that in the darkness he could take the hen from the poor boy's arms and run away. The boy began to worry that Ladrillo was tricking him. He asked Ladrillo, "Are you sure that we are going the right way to the marketplace? " "Yes, this is tne right way. Do not worry," said Ladrillo. When they reached one of the dark caves, Ladrillo took the hen from the boy.

The boy called for help. Hearing the boy's screaming, the hen became frightened, flapped her wings, and clucked out loud.

Suddenly, the hen jumped out of Ladrillo's hands and flew near the edge of one of the wells. Ladrillo went after the hen but when he tried to catch it, he slid and fell into a deep, dark well. At the same time, a worker was passing by. Hearing the hen's clucking, the man ran to see what was happening. He saw the boy holding the hen and looking inside at one of the wells. "What is happening inside the well? " he asked. "A man has fallen in. He tried to steal my hen but it ran away," said the boy.

The worker called some of his friends to help him get the man out of the well. As soon as they saw the man, they knew it was Ladrillo. the thief. Policemen were already looking for him. Right away, they took him to jail. The boy got a reward for the capture of Ladrillo.

He used some of the money to get a doctor for his mother. He was very happy because his mother was going to be well and he did not have to sell his hen. The town's people were very happy because Ladrillo would not be able to steal from them any more.



They made a song out of the capture of Ladrillo that said:
Ladrillo is in jail. The town's people claim him to get revenge . . . . . .

The End

Juan Bobo
and the Hen

This story is about a boy named Juan. He was a boy who did little thinking. When his mother asked him to do something he would obey without any thought. One morning he was helping his mother clean the barnyard. While he was cleaning the barnyard, he saw a nest containing some eggs. He looked around the barnyard for the hen. He could not find it.

Then Juan Bobo thought, "What a crazy hen! It left and forgot to warm its eggs. I will warm them. Thinking that he was doing the right thing, Juan sat down in the nest. He began clucking like a hen, "Cluck, cluck, cluck . . . . ! "

His mother was raking dried leaves from the patio. She heard a strange noise coming from the barnyard. Right away she went to see what was happening. When she saw that Juan was sitting in the nest, she asked him, "Juan, what are you doing?

"Cluck, cluck, cluck . . . ! Well Mother, because the hen left the nest I am warming the eggs," said Juan. His mother became very angry, and said to him, "Do not act like a fool. Get out of there. You are too old to do silly things like that." She took him by his shirt and she gave him a good spanking.

This is how Juan Bobo got his name.

The End

Juan Bobo
and the Needle

One day Juan Bobo's mother was mending a pair of his pants. She dropped her needle and it fell through a hole in the floor. Juan Bobo looked for the needle under the house but could not find it. His mother told him, "I need a needle to mend your pants. Go to the neighbors and borrow one."

While he was walking to the neighbor's house, Juan Bobo found a straw basket and took it. When he got to the neighbor's house, he said, "Can you lend my mother a needle?" The neighbor gave Juan Bobo a needle. She told him to return it as soon as he could.

He dropped the needle in the basket thinking that the needle would be safe. Right away the needle fell through one of the holes in the basket. In the meantime, his mother was waiting for him to return. She needed the needle to mend his pants.

At last, Juan Bobo got home. "Where is the needle I sent you to get?" his mother asked. Thinking that the needle was still there, Juan Bobo gave the straw basket to his mother and said, "Here it is, mother, I put the needle in this beautiful basket that I found on my way to the neighbor's house." His mother became very angry and said to him, "How could you think of putting a needle inside a basket that has so many holes?"

"Well, mother, I thought it would be safe in the basket," said Juan Bobo.

His mother gave him a spanking and said, "When I send you to get something that has a sharp point, stick it in your clothes."

Another time his mother needed some firewood. Juan Bobo, who liked to help his mother, went into the woods to get the firewood. He cut all the firewood his mother needed.

When he was ready to take the firewood home, he remembered what his mother had told him: "When I send you to get something that has a sharp point, stick it in your clothes." Right away he began sticking the firewood in his shirt.

When he got home his shirt was torn apart. "What have you done to your shirt?" his surprised mother asked him. "You told me that whenever you sent me to get something with a sharp point, I should stick it in my clothes. Mother, the firewood has sharp points," said Juan Bobo. His mother gave him a spanking and said, "It is time that you learn to do things right."

The End

Juan Bobo and his Little Brother

One Sunday morning Juan Bobo's mother had to go to the market place. She called her son and said to him, "Juan, I have to go to the marketplace. I want you to take care of your little brother and the house." Juan Bobo said, "Very well, mother. Do not worry. Take your time."

As soon as his mother left, Juan Bobo started sweeping the floor. A few minutes later his little brother woke up and started to cry. Juan Bobo gave his little brother a bottle of milk. His little brother drank it, but he continued crying. Juan Bobo asked him, "What is the matter? You drank all your milk."

Juan Bobo picked him up to stop his crying. He saw that his little brother was wet and he changed his clothes. His little brother continued crying. He watched his little brother for a few minutes. He felt his little legs, his little hands, and his little stomach but his little brother continued crying. He felt a very soft spot on his little head. The spot was moving. Juan Bobo thought, "No wonder my little brother is crying. He has a bump on his head."

He remembered that his mother broke a bump on his leg with a pin. He got a pin and broke the bump on his little brother's head. Right away, his little brother stopped crying.

When his mother got home, she asked, "Juan, how is your little brother?" Juan Bobo said, "Mother, when he woke up he started crying. I gave him a bottle of milk and I changed him, but he still kept crying. Then, I saw a bump on his head. I remembered that you broke a bump on my leg with a pin. So I got a pin and I broke his bump. Then he stopped crying."

His mother got very angry and hurried to see her baby. "Oh, my God! What have you done to my little baby?"

Juan Bobo's mother gave him a real good spanking.

THE END

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LADRILLO y Cuentos de JUAN BOBO

CUENTOS TRADICIONALES PUERTORRIQUEÑOS

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ILUSTRACIONES POR
JOE CAUCHI

Cuentos Tradicionales Puertorriqueños

LADRILLO y Cuentos de JUAN BOBO

LADRILLO y Cuentos de JUAN BOBO son cuentos de los tantos que nuestros abuelos nos acostumbraban contar antes de acostarnos. Fueron narrados en Arecibo, Puerto Rico por el Sr. Alfonso Matos, Sr. y en Hatillo, Puerto Rico por la Sra. Tomasa Pérez. Ellos primero oyeron estos cuentos cuando eran niños de sus abuelos y así los han pasado de generación a generación.

Preparado por
Reinaldo Matos y Ana Matos

Editado por
Ramón F. Padró

Cuentos narrados por
Alfonso Matos, Sr. y Tomasa Pérez

Ilustraciones por Joe Cauchi

Publicado por el Programa de Niños Migratorios de Connecticut, Título I, E.S.E.A. (Acta de Educación Elemental y Secundaria) en la Universidad de Hartford, James Scruggs, Director, en cooperación con la Cooperativa de Entrenamiento de Maestros de Connecticut, Roberto S. Avery, Director.

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LADRILLO Y LA GALLINA

Había una vez un muchacho que vivía cerca del Viejo San Juan. Su madre estaba muy enferma. El muchacho la quería mucho y haría cualquier cosa por ayudarla. Quería conseguirle un médico a su mamá pero como eran tan pobres no tenía dinero para pagarle. Un día la madre llamó a su hijo y le dijo, "Hijo, coge la gallina que nos queda y véndela. De regreso dile al médico que venga a verme".

Obedeciendo a su madre, el muchacho fue tras la gallina. Mientras la sujetaba en sus manos, pensaba en lo mucho que la quería.

El la había criado desde pequeñita. También pensaba en el amor que le tenía a su madre. Si era para ayudar a su madre, estaba dispuesto a vender su gallina.

De camino a la plaza del mercado, el muchacho se encontró con un hombre. Este hombre era un pillo famoso conocido como "Ladrillo".

Con intenciones de robarle la gallina, Ladrillo se acercó al muchacho y le preguntó, "Hijo, ¿adonde vas?" El muchacho le respondió, "Voy a vender esta gallina. Necesito conseguir dinero para pagar al médico que venga a ver a mi mamá. Ella está muy enferma".

Ladrillo le dijo, "Sígueme. Yo sé dónde puedes vender la gallina muy bien y conseguir un buen médico". Como el muchacho quería conseguir bastante dinero por su gallina para ayudar a su mamá, siguió al hombre.

Ladrillo lo llevó a un lugar conocido como el Fuerte del Morro. En el Fuerte habían cuevas obscuras y pozos muy profundos. Ladrillo llevó al muchacho cerca de una de las cuevas. El sabía que en la obscuridad podría arrebatarle la gallina y salir corriendo. El muchacho estaba sospechando que aquel no era el camino al mercado o al médico. Le preguntó a Ladrillo, "¿Está usted seguro que vamos por el camino correcto hacia el mercado"? "Sí, éste es el camino correcto. No te preocupes", le contestó Ladrillo. Al acercarse a una de las cuevas obscuras, Ladrillo le arrebató la gallina al muchacho.

El muchacho empezó a gritar muy fuerte. Al oir los gritos, la gallina empezó a cacarear y a aletear.

En la confusión, la gallina se escapó de las manos de Ladrillo y se paró en la orilla de uno de los pozos. Ladrillo corrió tras la gallina pero al tratar de agarrarla, resbaló y cayó al pozo obscuro y profundo. En ese momento pasaba por allí cerca un trabajador. Al oir los cacareos de la gallina se acercó a ver qué pasaba. Vio al muchacho sujetando una gallina y mirando hacia el fondo de uno de los pozos. "¿Qué sucede dentro de ese pozo"? , preguntó el trabajador. "Un hombre ha caído ahí dentro. Trató de robarme mi gallina pero ella se le escapó", respondió el muchacho.

El trabajador llamó a algunos de sus amigos para sacar al hombre del pozo. Tan pronto vieron al hombre reconocieron a Ladrillo, el pillo. La policía lo estaba buscando porque había robado antes. De inmediato se lo llevaron a la cárcel. Como había una recompensa por la captura de Ladrillo se la dieron al muchacho.

El usó parte del dinero para pagar la visita del médico a su mamá. Estaba muy contento pues su mamá iba a mejorar y no había tenido que vender su gallina. La gente también estaba contenta porque Ladrillo no las molestaría. Escribieron una canción por la captura de Ladrilo que decía:

Ladrillo está en la cárcel. El pueblo lo reclama para vengarse . . . . . .

Fin

Juan Bobo
y la Gallina

Este cuento es de un niño muy bobo llamado Juan. Cuando su mamá le pedía que hiciera algo, él lo hacía, pero sin darle sentido. Una mañana mientras Juan ayudaba a su mamá a limpiar el gallinero, notó un nido con huevos. Buscó la gallina alrededor del gallinero pero no la encontró.

Entonces Juan pensó, "¡Qué gallina más loca! Se fue y dejó los huevos sin calentar. Yo los calentaré". Creyendo que hacía lo correcto, Juan se sentó sobre los huevos. Empezó a cacarear como una gallina, "Cloc, cloc, cloc! ....."

Su mamá, quien estaba rastrillando las hojas secas del patio, oyó un extraño ruido que venía del gallinero. Entonces fue a ver lo que pasaba. Cuando notó que Juan estaba sentado sobre los huevos, le preguntó, "Juan, ¿qué estás haciendo"?

"¡Cloc, cloc, cloc! Pues mai, como la gallina se fue, yo estoy calentando los huevos", respondió Juan. Su madre, llena de coraje, le ordenó, "No seas tan bobo y levántate de ahí. Estás muy grande para hacer tonterías como esa".

Lo agarró por la camisa y le dio una paliza.

Así fue como Juan adquirió el nombre de Juan Bobo.

Fin

Juan Bobo
y la Aguja

Un día la mamá de Juan Bobo estaba remendándole un pantalón. La aguja se le cayó por un agujero en el piso. Juan Bobo buscó la aguja debajo de la casa pero no la encontró. Su mamá le dijo, "Necesito una aguja para remendarte el pantalón. Ve donde la vecina y pídele una prestada".

Mientras caminaba, Juan Bobo encontró una canasta muy bonita y la cogió. Cuando llegó a casa de la vecina, le dijo, "¡Que si le puedé prestar una aguja a mai! " La vecina le dio la aguja a Juan Bobo. Le dijo que tan pronto la usara se la devolviera.

Juan Bobo echó la aguja en la canasta para que no se le perdiera. Como la canasta tenía tantos rotos, la aguja se le cayó por uno de los rotos. Mientras tanto, la mamá estaba esperando a su hijo. Ella necesitaba la aguja para remendar el pantalón.

Al rato Juan Bobo llegó. "¿Dónde está la aguja que te mandé a buscar"? , le preguntó su mamá. Creyendo que la aguja todavía estaba allí, Juan Bobo le dio la canasta a su mamá, y le dijo, "Aquí está, mai. La puse en esta canasta tan linda que me encontré en el camino". Ella, muy enojada, le dijo, "¿Cómo se te ocurre echar una aguja en una canasta que tiene tantos rotos"? "Bueno mai, yo creía que no se me iba a perder en la canasta", respondió Juan Bobo.

Su mamá le dio una paliza y le dijo, "Cuando te mande a buscar algo que tenga punta préndetelo en la ropa".

En otra ocasión la mamá necesitaba leña para cocinar. Juan Bobo, quien le gustaba ayudar a su mamá, fue a la maleza a buscar la leña. Cortó toda la leña que su mamá necesitaba.

Cuando estaba listo para llevar la leña a su casa, recordó lo que su mamá le había dicho, "Cuando te mande a buscar algo que tenga punta, préndetelo en la ropa". Entonces empezó a prenderse la leña en la ropa.

Mucho rato después llegó a su casa con la camisa destrozada. "¿Qué le has hecho a tu camisa, Juan"? , le preguntó su madre sorprendida. "Tú me dijiste que cuando me mandaras a buscar algo que tuviera punta, me lo prendiera en la ropa. La leña tiene punta, mai", respondió Juan Bobo. Su madre le dio una pela y le dijo, "Ya es tiempo que aprendas a hacer las cosas bien".

Fin

Juan Bobo y su Hermanito

Un domingo por la mañana, la mamá de Juan Bobo tenía que ir al mercado. Llamó a su hijo y le dijo, "Juan, tengo que ir al mercado. Quiero que cuides de tu hermanito y de la casa". Juan Bobo le contestó, "Muy bien, mai. No te preocupes. Todo va a estar bien. Tómate tu tiempo".

Tan pronto su mamá se fue, Juan Bobo se puso a barrer el piso. Algunos minutos más tarde, su hermanito despertó y se puso a llorar. Enseguida Juan Bobo le dio una botella de leche. Su hermanito se la tomó pero siguió llorando. Juan Bobo le preguntaba, "¿Qué te pasa, hermanito? Ya te bebiste toda la leche".

Juan Bobo lo cogió al hombro tratando de tranquilizarlo. Notó que el pañal de su hermanito estaba mojado y se lo cambió. Su hermanito seguía llorando. Miró a su hermanito por algunos minutos. Le tocó las piernitas, las manitas, y la barriguita pero su hermanito seguía llorando. Entonces le tocó la cabecita y notó una parte muy blandita. Esa parte se movía mucho. Juan Bobo dijo, "Con razón mi hermanito llora tanto. Tiene un nacido en la cabeza".

Recordó que una vez su mamá le reventó un nacido en una pierna con un alfiler. Buscó un alfiler y le reventó el nacido al nene. De pronto su hermanito dejó de llorar.

Cuando su mamá llegó, le preguntó, "Juan, ¿cómo está tu hermanito"? Juan Bobo le contestó, "Pues mira, mai, mi hermanito despertó y empezó a llorar. Le di la botella de leche y le cambié el pañal pero seguía llorando. Después noté que tenía un nacido en la cabeza. Recordé que una vez tú me reventaste un nacido con un alfiler. Conseguí un alfiler y le reventé el nacido. Entonces dejó de llorar".

Su madre, con mucho coraje, corrió a ver a su hijito. "¡Ay, Dios mío! ¿Qué me le has hecho a mi hijito"?

La mamá de Juan Bobo le dio una pela que por poco acaba con él.

Fin

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